

Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-04

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-07 AGR-05 AID-05

CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 EB-07 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FMC-01 TRSE-00 H-02

INR-07 INT-05 IO-13 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

NSF-01 OES-06 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5246

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PLOS

SUBJECT: SECOND SESSION - LOS CONFERENCE

REF : STATE 99357

1. POL COUNSELOR APRIL 28 SAW MFA DIRECTOR (UNITED NATIONS) MUNIR AKRAM AND MADE DEMARCHE CALLING FOR GOP SUPPORT FOR SECOND 1976 SESSION OF LOS CONFERENCE. AKRAM SAID HE THOUGHT GOP WOULD HAVE NO PROBLEM WITH SUPPORTING SECOND SESSION WHICH HE THOUGHT WOULD ALSO WIN BROAD MEASURE OF SUPPORT FROM THE OTHER CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS. HE SAID HE WOULD BRING USG DEMARCHE TO IMMEDIATE ATTENTION OF FOREIGN SECRETARY SHAHI AND ANTICIPATED A POSITIVE GOP DECISION WITHIN A FEW DAYS. HE SAID HE WOULD CONVEY THIS TO EMBASSY AS SOON AS IT WAS REACHED.

2. HAVING EXPRESSED THIS FORTHCOMING ATTITUDE TOWARDS
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A SECOND SESSION, WHICH HE SAID WAS IN LINE WITH THE

GOP'S CUSTOMARY WILLINGNESS TO NEGOTIATE OUT DIFFERENCES, AKRAM STATED THAT RECENT ASSESSMENTS OF THE PROGRESS OF THE LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE SENT IN BY AMBASSADOR AKHUND HAD STRESSED THE "RETROGRESSIVE TRENDS" WHICH HAD TAKEN PLACE IN AREAS OF IMPORTANCE TO PAKISTAN. HE SAID THAT THE DELEGATION HAD BEEN CONCERNED BY THE "DILUTING" OF THE DEFINITION OF THE ECONOMIC ZONE IN A WAY CONTRARY TO THE INTERESTS OF MARITIME STATES. HE ALSO NOTED THAT THE LAND LOCKED AND GEOGRAPHICALLY DISADVANTAGED STATES HAD "GANGED UP" AGAINST THE COASTAL STATES. AKRAM SAID THAT POSITIONED AS IT IS AT THE MOUTH OF THE PERSIAN GULF, PAKISTAN COULD NOT ACCEPT THE CLAIMS OF THE LL/GDS FOR RIGHTS WITHIN ITS ECONOMIC ZONE. IN THIS CONTEXT, HE SAID THE GOP WAS PARTICULARLY CONCERNED WITH THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE QUESTION OF ACCESS TO THE ECONOMIC ZONE FROM THE LAND SIDE IN TERMS OF AFGHAN DEMANDS FOR TRANSIT RIGHTS TO KARACHI.

3. AKRAM SAID THAT AS THINGS WERE NOW GOING IT WOULD BE IN HIS OPINION DIFFICULT FOR PAKISTAN TO AGREE TO ACCEPT THE CONVENTION LIKELY TO RESULT FROM THE LOS CONFERENCE. HE SAID THAT BOTH HE AND THE PAK LOS DELEGATION HAD FELT THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER HAD BEEN TOO SANGUINE WHEN HE HAD STATED IN HIS APRIL 8 SPEECH THAT PROBLEMS SUCH AS THE QUESTION OF THE ECONOMIC ZONE AND PASSAGE THROUGH INTERNATIONAL STRAITS HAD BEEN LARGELY RESOLVED. THEY FELT THAT THE FOCUS ON THE SECRETARY'S SPEECH ON SUCH OTHER MATTERS AS THE JURISDICTION OF THE DEEP SEA BEDS AUTHORITY WAS LARGELY IRRELEVANT TO THEIR CONTINUING CONCERN WITH THE ECONOMIC ZONE ISSUE. THE GOP, HE SAID, WOULD BE PREPARED TO GO ALONG WITH ANY OVERALL CONSENSUS ON THE MATTERS THE SECRETARY HAD RAISED BUT WHAT WOULD BE MUCH MORE SIGNIFICANT FOR IT WOULD BE AN ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION TO THE ISSUES OF MORE IMMEDIATE IMPORTANCE TO PAKISTAN.
BYROADE

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